

North Tyneside Council

Report to Standards Committee

Date: 11 July 2019

ITEM

Title: Action Plan/Work Programme 2019 - 20

Report from Service

Area: Law and Governance

Report Author: Bryn Roberts, Head of Law and Governance (Tel: 643 5339) and Monitoring Officer

Wards affected: All

1.1 Purpose:

To provide a report on the Action Plan/Work Programme of the Standards Committee for 2019/20.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

The Committee is requested to consider and suggest any additions and amendments to this report as appropriate and to approve the action plan/work programme.

1.3 Information

1.3.1 The Standards Committee's - Action Plan/Work Programme up to 31 March 2020

The Standards Committee is responsible for the Authority's statutory duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by the Elected Mayor, Councillors, Co-opted Members.

The draft Action Plan/Work Programme sets out below details the proposed tasks and matters that will be undertaken by the Committee in this municipal year.

Members are requested to consider the proposed tasks and matters and determine the action plan/work programme for 2019/20.

The Action Plan/Work Programme will be monitored by the Committee at each meeting and the progress of the identified actions will be reported in the Committee's Annual Report in May 2020.

Action	Why	By When
Monitor the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct and undertake a review of the Committee for Standards in Public Life's report on Local	To ensure that it is operating effectively	March 2020

Government Ethical Standards to identify where the Authority is already meeting best practice and where there are areas where the Authority's arrangements could be improved.		
To review the Authority's Local Arrangements for dealing with Complaints under the Code of Conduct.	To ensure that the Authority's Local Arrangements meet the requirements and expectations of the Members and the relevant legislation.	March 2020
To continue to develop an ongoing programme of meetings with invited guests, including the Elected Mayor, the Chief Executive, Senior Leadership Team, Group Leaders, the Chair and Deputy Chair of Council and the Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Planning Committee and other Regulatory Committees.	To develop a dialogue between the Committee, and members and appropriate Officers relating to ethical governance and ethical standards.	Ongoing
Regional meeting of the Chairs and Deputy Chairs of Standards Committees and Independent Persons be arranged in consultation with other regional authorities	To provide an opportunity to share knowledge and best practice.	To be arranged in the course of the year.
To review training available to all Council Members on ethical governance, ethical standards issues including arrangements with respect to the Code of Conduct; granting of dispensations, the use of Social Media and declaring interests.	To ensure all members receive information on ethical governance, ethical standards to minimise risk of unwitting breaches of the Code of Conduct.	By March 2020
To seek the further promotion with all	To assist all Member in the use of social media.	By March 2020

Members of the Authority's e-learning training on the use social media.		
Continue production of Annual Standards Committee Report	Presentation of Annual Report of the work of the Committee during the previous 12 months.	By end of each municipal year.
To provide training to the Independent Persons on their role, this to include invitations to relevant training for Members.	To ensure that the Authority's Independent Persons understand their role in relation to ethical governance and the Code of Conduct for Members as well as the disciplinary procedures for Statutory Officers.	October 2019.
To update where necessary and recirculate the pocket guide to the Code of Conduct and the requirements in relation to interests to all Members.	To assist Members in how the Code of Conduct applies to them.	December 2019

1.4 Appendices:

None.

1.5 Contact officers:

Stephen Ballantyne, Legal Manager: Governance and Employment

(0191) 643 5329

1.6 Background information:

Code of Conduct for Members and Co-opted Members
The Localism Act 2011
Standards Committee Annual Report 2018-2019